

CONCLUSION

A system and method has been shown in the above embodiments for the effective implementation of an e-commerce method and system for dynamically formulating searchable travel packages. While various preferred embodiments have been shown and described, it will 5 be understood that there is no intent to limit the invention by such disclosure, but rather, it is intended to cover all modifications and alternate constructions falling within the spirit and scope of the invention, as defined in the appended claims. For example, the present invention should not be limited by software/program, computing environment, specific computing hardware, travel package items or options, financial processing methods, search engines or interfaces, or communication mediums. In addition, the specific examples are representative of the preferred 10 embodiment and should not limit the scope of the invention

CLAIMS

Sub 5

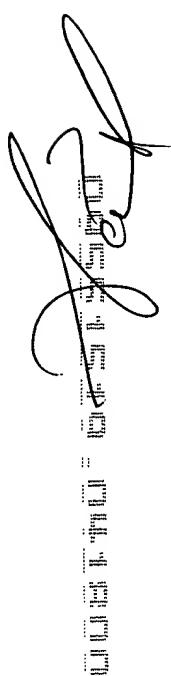
1. A computer-based e-commerce system dynamically formulating a collection of vendor offered products, wherein said system comprises a plurality of components, one or more of said components located locally or remotely, said system comprising:

- o one or more offerings of products from one or more vendors, said offerings including at least any of: price, time restrictions, use restrictions, class, availability, rules, or description(s);
- o computer storage retaining said one or more offerings of products;
- o computerized intelligent compilation of packages comprising selected ones of said one or more offerings of products, said compilation based on a congruency matching of criteria comprising any of: geographic

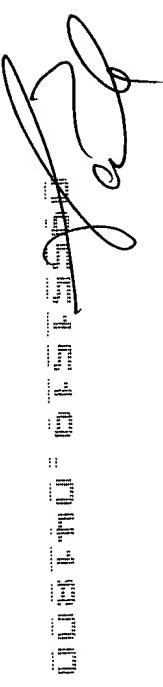
distributions, type of product, time considerations, cost, defined restrictions, intelligent agents, and distribution channel limitations;

- o computerized package cost determination including any of: summation of individual costs of products included in said compiled package, commissions, discounts, and special promotional items;
- o an interface for entering one or more search request(s) for possible packages, and
wherein said compilation is performed partially or wholly before said request for possible packages or interactively during said request.

2. A computer-based e-commerce system dynamically formulating a collection of vendor offered products, as per claim 1, wherein said products include one or more of travel related items.
3. A computer-based e-commerce system dynamically formulating a collection of vendor offered products, as per claim 1, wherein said products include one or more of: airline seating, hotel rooms, car rentals, and auxiliary travel support items
4. A computer-based e-commerce system dynamically formulating a collection of vendor offered products, as per claim 1, wherein a user searches for possible packages based on a match to desired criteria.
5. A computer-based e-commerce system dynamically formulating a collection of vendor offered products, as per claim 1, wherein said system further includes a purchase option for a selected package.



6. A computer-based e-commerce system dynamically formulating a collection of vendor offered products, as per claim 5, wherein said system further comprises booking actual reservations with each vendor for products in a purchased package.
7. A computer-based e-commerce system dynamically formulating a collection of vendor offered products, as per claim 1, wherein said system dynamically reformulates said compilated packages based on availability of said vendor offered products.
8. A computer-based e-commerce system dynamically formulating a collection of vendor offered products, as per claim 1, wherein said components located locally or remotely are connected by any of: computer-based networks, LANs, WANs, cellular, wireless, Internet, WWW, satellite, or other data/telecommunications based communication mediums.
9. A computer-based e-commerce system dynamically formulating a collection of vendor offered travel products, wherein said system comprises a plurality of components, one or more of said components located locally or remotely, said system comprising:
 - o one or more offerings of travel products from one or more vendors, said offerings including at least any of: airline seating, hotel rooms, car rentals, and auxiliary travel support items with any of associated: price, time restrictions, use restrictions, class, availability, rules, and description(s);
 - o computer storage retaining said one or more offerings of products;



- computerized intelligent compilation of travel packages comprising selected ones of said one or more offerings of products, said compilation based on a congruency matching of criteria comprising any of: geographic distributions, type of product, time considerations, cost, defined restrictions, intelligent agents, and distribution channel limitations;
- computerized package cost determination including any of: summation of individual costs of products included in said compiled package, commissions, discounts, and special promotional items;
- an interface for entering one or more search request(s) for possible packages, said compilation performed partially or wholly before said request for possible packages or interactively during said request;
- a purchase option for a selected package, and
- a booking mechanism to finalize reservations with each vendor for products in a purchased package.

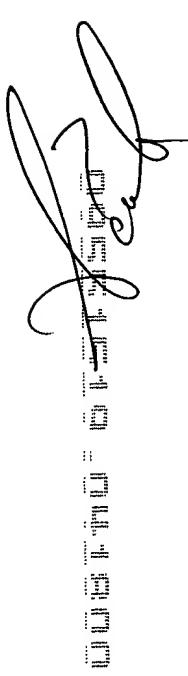
10. A computer-based e-commerce system dynamically formulating a collection of vendor offered products, as per claim 9, wherein said system dynamically reformulates said compilated packages based on availability of said vendor offered products.

11. A computer-based e-commerce system dynamically formulating a collection of vendor offered products, as per claim 9, wherein said components located locally or remotely are connected by any of: computer-based networks, LANs, WANs, cellular,

wireless, Internet, WWW, satellite, or other data/telecommunications based communication mediums.

12. A computer-based e-commerce method dynamically formulating a collection of vendor offered travel products, wherein said method comprises a plurality of steps, one or more of said steps performed locally or remotely, said method comprising:

- o retrieving one or more offerings of travel products from one or more vendors, said offerings including at least any of: airline seating, hotel rooms, car rentals, and auxiliary travel support items with any of associated: price, time restrictions, use restrictions, class, availability, rules, and description(s);
- o retaining said one or more offerings of products in computer storage;
- o intelligently compiling travel packages comprising selected ones of said one or more offerings of products, said compiling based on a congruency matching of criteria comprising any of: geographic distributions, type of product, time considerations, cost, defined restrictions, intelligent agents, and distribution channel limitations;
- o receiving one or more search request(s) for possible packages;
- o presenting possible packages meeting a requestors criteria;
- o determining a total cost by any of: summation of individual costs of products included in said compiled package, commissions, discounts, and special promotional items, and
- o processing payment of a one or more selected travel packages.



13. A computer-based e-commerce method dynamically formulating a collection of vendor offered travel products as per claim 12, further comprising the step of booking actual reservations with each vendor for products in a purchased package.
14. A computer-based e-commerce method dynamically formulating a collection of vendor offered travel products, as per claim 12, wherein said compilation is performed partially or wholly before said request for possible packages or interactively during said request.
15. A computer-based e-commerce method dynamically formulating a collection of vendor offered travel products, as per claim 12, wherein said method dynamically reformulates said compilited packages based on availability of said vendor offered products.
16. A computer-based e-commerce method dynamically formulating a collection of vendor offered travel products, as per claim 12, wherein said one or more steps performed locally or remotely are performed across any of: computer-based networks, LANs, WANs, cellular, wireless, Internet, WWW, satellite, or other data/telecommunications based communication mediums.
17. A computer-based e-commerce system dynamically formulating a collection of vendor offered travel products, wherein said system comprises a plurality of components, one or more of said components located locally or remotely, said system comprising:
 - o a centralized travel packaging system;

- o connections between said centralized travel packaging system and one or more remotely located travel vendor revenue management systems, said connections across any of: computer-based networks, LANs, WANs, cellular, wireless, Internet, WWW, satellite, or other data/telecommunications based communication mediums, said vendor revenue management systems producing said vendor offered travel products;
- o a searching interface, said interface receiving a search request including requestor travel criteria;
- o an intelligent matching mechanism retained within said centralized travel packaging system, said matching mechanism using said requestor criteria and additional criteria comprising any of: geographic distributions, type of product, time considerations, cost, defined restrictions, expert travel packaging knowledge base, and distribution channel limitations to match vendor offered travel products and compile travel packages;
- o a travel packages database storing said compilited travel packages;
- o a financial transaction mechanism to complete a purchase of a package selected from said compilited travel packages, and
- o a booking mechanism to finalize reservations with each travel vendor for products in a purchased package.

18. A computer-based e-commerce system dynamically formulating a collection of vendor offered products, as per claim 17, wherein said system dynamically

reformulates said compilated packages based on availability of said vendor offered products.

19. A computer-based e-commerce system dynamically formulating a collection of vendor offered travel products, as per claim 17, wherein said compilation is performed partially or wholly before said search request for possible packages or interactively during said request.
20. A computer-based e-commerce system dynamically formulating a collection of vendor offered travel product, as per claim 17, wherein said requestor includes any of: travel agents, distributors or individual requestors.
21. A computer-based e-commerce system dynamically formulating a collection of vendor offered travel product, as per claim 17, wherein said intelligent matching mechanism includes a removal element removing any packages which do not meet restrictions of a distribution channel that issued the search request.
22. A computer-based e-commerce system dynamically formulating a collection of vendor offered travel product, as per claim 17, wherein said financial transaction mechanism includes a commission element meeting a commission schedule of a distribution channel that issued the search request.
23. A computer-based e-commerce system dynamically formulating a collection of vendor offered travel product, as per claim 17, wherein said connections between said centralized travel packaging system and one or more remotely located travel vendor

revenue management systems include any of: a direct connection, through a central reservation system (CRS), or a vendor's website.

24. A computer-based e-commerce system dynamically formulating a collection of vendor offered travel product, as per claim 17, wherein said defined restrictions include any of: which companies may or may not be included in the packages, which other types of companies may or may not be included in the packages, minimal/maximal travel duration, minimal/maximal travelers, days of week that must be or must not be included in the travel duration, prices of other products in the package, discounts on other products in the package, or the relative part of each product in the package, available payment methods, conditions and restrictions for modifying the reservation of canceling the reservation, dynamic price of package according to any of: duration of stay, number of travelers, days of week, participating companies, geographical location.

25. A computer-based e-commerce system dynamically formulating a collection of vendor offered travel product, as per claim 17, wherein system further includes distributors to control which packages are available to reservation staff or consumers who search for packages from a distributor's facility, said control comprising criteria to include/exclude products of specific companies, the distributor's commission that should be added to the final price, minimal/maximal travel duration, minimal/maximal travelers.

26. A computer-based e-commerce system dynamically formulating a collection of vendor offered travel product, as per claim 17, wherein said requestor travel criteria includes one or more of: when, where, types of activities, price, and luxury level.

27. A computer-based e-commerce system dynamically formulating a collection of vendor offered travel product, as per claim 17, wherein said defined restrictions include limitations to filter out business travelers.

28. A computer-based e-commerce system dynamically formulating a collection of vendor offered travel product, as per claim 17, wherein each distribution channel defines selling options to control what packages can be sold through the specific distribution channel, and special parameters for selling packages through the specific distribution channel including any of: packages of which specific companies may be sold, packages of which specific companies may not be sold, how much should be added to the price as markup/commission, limits on duration of travel, limits on location of travel, or limits on the price of the package.

29. A computer-based e-commerce method for committing previously uncommitted travel products, wherein said method comprises a plurality of steps, one or more of said steps implemented locally or remotely, said system comprising:

- o determining available travel products from an inventory, based on any of: historical data, price, class, demand, time before use, type;
- o placing defined restrictions on one or more of said determined travel products;

o offering said one or more of said determined travel products with associated restrictions to a centralized travel packaging system, said centralized travel packaging system located across computer-based networks, LANs, WANs, cellular, wireless, Internet, WWW, satellite, or other data/telecommunications based communication mediums,

o receiving confirmed reservations from said centralized travel packaging system, said reservations included in one or more selected travel packages stored within a travel packages database as determined by an intelligent matching and compilation mechanism retained within said centralized travel packaging system, and

o wherein said uncommitted travel products are committed by acceptance of said actual reservations.

30. A computer-based e-commerce method for committing previously uncommitted travel products, as per claim 29, wherein said defined restrictions include any of: which companies may or may not be included in the packages, which other types of companies may or may not be included in the packages, minimal/maximal travel duration, minimal/maximal travelers, days of week that must be or must not be included in the travel duration, prices of other products in the package, discounts on other products in the package, or the relative part of each product in the package, available payment methods, conditions and restrictions for modifying the reservation of canceling the reservation, dynamic price of package according to any of: duration of stay, number of travelers, days of week, participating companies, geographical location.

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31. A computer-based e-commerce method for committing previously uncommitted travel products, as per claim 29, wherein said centralized travel packaging system dynamically reformulates said compilited packages based on availability of one or more of said determined travel products.
32. A computer-based e-commerce method for committing previously uncommitted travel products, as per claim 29, wherein said centralized travel packaging system receives one or more of said determined travel products from a plurality of travel product vendors.